

# California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the  
Medical Society of the State of California

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State Journal, - - -	San Francisco.
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VOL. XIII      SEPTEMBER, 1915      No. 9

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### THAT "HOG-TIGHT FENCE" AGAIN.

Quite a number of letters referring to an editorial note in the last issue of the JOURNAL have been received and it is very evident that the action of the Board of Medical Examiners referred to by Vanderburgh does not meet with much approval, to say the least. The following is a sample and is a letter written by a distinguished physician in the Southern part of the State:

"In reading the last issue of the STATE JOURNAL and especially the published letter of Dr. Vanderburgh, at his request, on the so-called 'hog-tight fence,' it has occurred to me that the inward craving of the doctor's 'spleen' has been fully satisfied. And I had another thought in reading this letter and your editorial comments thereon: Could it be possible that any medical man sufficiently intelligent and honored by the state to sit on the Board of Medical Examiners could be found so narrow and selfish as to desire to sacrifice the health and lives of the people of the state in the interests of some one 'pathy'? God save the people!"

In order that our members may become acquainted with the facts and that the attitude of

the members of the Board of Medical Examiners on this very important question may be a part of the printed record, the minutes of the board have been carefully gone over and particular attention given to their method of dealing with the osteopathic situation, for reasons which will appear subsequently. The minutes of the June meeting show the following action:

"Moved by Molony, seconded by Vanderburgh, that on the basis of the report of the College Investigation Committee, the Los Angeles College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the California Eclectic Medical College and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of San Francisco be temporarily approved till December 1, 1915, as qualifying applicants for the Physician and Surgeon examination.

"Ayes: Tasker, Vanderburgh, Molony, Campbell, Brown, Smith, Pinkham.

"Noes: Alderson, Loos."

There is the record. What does it mean? It means quite a lot, when you study it. It means that an osteopath is no longer to be an osteopath but is to be recognized as a "physician and surgeon." Under our wonderful and fearful medical law, the Board of Examiners is authorized to issue two classes of licenses to practice; to drugless practitioners and to physicians and surgeons. The osteopath of course comes within the drugless limitation—or did, until this action of the board which Vanderburgh so complacently refers to as removing a section of the "hog-tight fence." The action of the board above quoted appears to allow graduates of an osteopathic school to apply for license to practice, not as osteopaths, but as physicians and surgeons! And two Regular members of the board voted for the resolution: Wm. R. Molony, Los Angeles; A. M. Smith, Oakland; the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Gundrum has not been filled, so that there are but four Regulars on the board at present.

### OSTEOPATHIC M.D.'S, AND HOW.

The resolution bases this recognition of graduates of an osteopathic school for application to obtain a physician and surgeon license on the report of the College Investigation Committee. It may be said in passing that the Los Angeles College of Osteopathy has been claiming for some time that it was competent to teach and did teach and graduate doctors of medicine, giving the degree of M.D. The report of this College Investigation Committee for last year has already been commented upon in the JOURNAL. It is spread upon the minutes of the Board of Examiners and hence is a public document which any one may consult. It showed conclusively that the claim of this osteopathic school to teach regular medicine was what would be a farce if it were not an insult to human intelligence. On the basis of this year's report, which is not materially different from last year's, this osteopathic school was given recognition as a drugless college for one year and only

with the understanding that certain improvements would be made in that time. On top of all this, and with the full knowledge of the two reports of the College Investigation Committee, two regular members of the board vote to allow graduates of the institution recognition as applicants for a physician and surgeon license—to become full fledged doctors of medicine!

#### ONE DANGER OF IT.

A very vital matter, utterly overlooked by some of those on the board, and off the board as well, who have been anxious to let down the bars or who have been willing to see it done unprotected, is the duty the state owes its own licentiates and the graduates of its own recognized medical schools of high standing. Even under former and higher standards, a number of states would not recognize California licentiates for the reason that our standards were too low. As our standards go down, the list of such states increases and if the various fakers be given the same license that is granted to those who have a hard-earned degree of doctor of medicine, the standard of California will be equal to or lower than that of the lowest grade state in the Union. When that happens, what will a license to practice in California be worth to the holder? It would, in some ways, seem almost better to have no law and no license at all.

#### THE WHY OF IT.

While on the subject of the relations of the osteopath toward medical activity in the state, let us go into it a little more fully and set out some other matters of interest and importance. Up to a couple of years or so ago, the osteopath made no strenuous effort to obtain actual recognition as an M.D. To be sure, many of them really practised medicine and surgery, but under the name of osteopathy. But now conditions have changed; the industrial accident law and the federal narcotic law have brought about the change. Under the former, only duly licensed physicians and surgeons have any recognition, thus barring out the osteopath and the followers of other delusions from doing any of this work; under the latter, the same classes of healers are barred from dispensing or selling narcotic drugs. Do you see the reason for their wanting the designation of licensed physician and surgeon? Under the old conditions, they practised about what they pleased under the osteopathic license; under the new conditions the law does not recognize them at all unless they have the M. D. license.

#### THE HAND OF THE DEVIL, ONCE MORE.

Last month we published a review of an excellent book. And somehow, one cannot say how these things ever happen, the name of the author was left out. Neither the librarian who noted the return of the review, nor the editor who read the "Copy," nor the writer of the review when he corrected his proof, noticed this rather con-

siderable omission. The book was "The Gynecology of Obstetrics" and it was written by Dr. David Hadden, of Oakland.

#### RAIDS ON QUACKS.

The Special Agent of the Board of Medical Examiners is doing splendid work in the elimination of quacks and unlicensed "practitioners," and the people certainly owe something to him—Mr. A. J. McDonnell. In the early part of August he moved quietly into Stockton and before they knew it, he had two Japanese and eight Chinese "Doctors" arrested. The two Japanese broke all previous records for speed; they were arrested, held for trial, plead guilty, fined \$100 each and agreed to quit their nefarious work, all in one day! It was largely through the tireless work of Mr. McDonnell that the notorious Higgins was finally arrested and is now held under a number of charges and indictments in the federal court. We wish to congratulate the Board of Examiners on having at its command the services of such an active and patient man as Mr. McDonnell.

#### INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE.

The Judicial Council of the American Medical Association cannot be too highly complimented on the comprehensive report which they presented to the House of Delegates at the A. M. A. meeting last June and which appears in the minutes of the House of Delegates, *Journal of the A. M. A.*, July 3, 1915. It is a mighty instructive document and shows careful and conservative study of the whole situation. New conditions have arisen which it is quite beyond our power to control. The only thing we can do is to aid in the better development of what has come and let the future discover whether the fundamental ideas involved are right or wrong. As time goes, they seem to be more right than wrong, but we are too near them to have any point of perspective. This report of the Judicial Council is well worth the careful study of every one of us. Industrial insurance we have in some measure; that we shall have more of it in increasing measure, is certain; that we cannot know too much about what it is, what it has done in other places and how it has developed in other countries, is also certain.

#### "SUGGESTIONS TO MEDICAL AUTHORS."

The American Medical Association publishes some very valuable pamphlets, a catalog and price list of which will be sent on application. Not the least valuable of these is one having the above title. "This pamphlet of 27 pages, discussing the above-mentioned topics and many others, will be sent on receipt of 10 cents. It contains valuable information in regard to the preparation of articles for publication and the points which make an article acceptable." We are almost tempted to offer to furnish the 10 cents to any prospective author who will send for it, read it and follow it, before preparing his article for submission.